

Joshua 24:15 But as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD.

English Version
英文版



Running the Race.

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Report from the Senior Pastor and the Board of Elders

Pastor Daniel Chan

This is my last ministry report as a BCEC pastor. I am thankful for the opportunity to serve in BCEC for the past 33 years. I see it as an honor to retire at the church that has given so many blessings to my family and me.

In the past year, some of our members who worshiped online during the pandemic started coming back for in-person Sunday worship services. We also saw quite a few newcomers joining our church. The following is a table showing the average Sunday attendance for different congregations from October 2023 through September 2024.

| Congregation | In-person attendance | Real-time online viewing | Note |
|---------------------|-----------------------------|---------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Chinatown Mandarin | 79 (64) | 21 (24) | Last year's figure in brackets |
| Chinatown Cantonese | 188 (171) | 38* | *No 2023 online figures |
| Chinatown English | 167 (177) | 19* | *No 2023 online figures |
| Newton Mandarin | 76 (67) | 10 (8) | |
| Newton Cantonese | 158 (120) | 44 (52) | |
| Newton English | 92 (80) | 8* | *No 2023 online figures |
| Average for 2023-24 | 760** (679) | 140 | **69% of pre-pandemic |

As in previous years, there are many hundred “hits” to our Sunday service videos posted on the YouTube channel. However, it is hard to gauge whether they are from our members or from random viewers. Below is a table showing the number of viewers on our YouTube channel.

| Congregation | Average number of viewers (real-time and non-real-time) |
|---------------------|--|
| Chinatown Mandarin | 79 |
| Chinatown Cantonese | 266 |
| Chinatown English | 167 |
| Newton Mandarin | 21 |
| Newton Cantonese | 407 (including combined Easter and Christmas Eve services) |
| Newton English | 39 |

A total of 61 people were baptized and became BCEC members last year. That is a significant increase from 33 people the year before. We also admitted 16 transfer members and 4 associate members in the past year.

2024 is a year of forward-looking for BCEC. In mid-2023, the elder and deacon boards established a Restructuring and Change Committee to evaluate and improve the organization and operation of our leadership structure. Since then, the Committee has interviewed all our elders and deacons. A preliminary report, with suggested changes, was submitted to both boards this year. The elders and deacons will consider and discern what kind of changes we need at this time. Looking forward, the elders have formed a committee to identify and train the next generation of lay elders. The elders have also set up a Vision Committee to facilitate the development of a church-wide vision to guide the church going forward.



Board of Elders:

Back: Pastor Enoch Liao, Pastor Ken Liu, Pastor Steve Liu, Pastor Barry Lam, Pastor Kenneth Kwong, Pastor Andy Su
Front: Elder Jack Lee, Elder Brian Hui, Pastor Daniel Chan, Elder Bak-fun Wong, Elder Chuk-lam Yuen

Regarding Chinatown facility expansion, we have conducted two listening sessions and a churchwide survey to get input from our members. The elders are considering setting up an expansion committee with a mandate that is informed by the result of the survey.

The Senior Pastor Search Committee is making good progress. By the grace of God, we hope to present a senior pastor candidate for the approval of our members at this year's Annual Membership Meeting on October 27.

There were several staff movements during last year. After Pastor Calvin's stepping down, Minister Louis Leung joined the pastoral staff as the Interim Project Destiny and Youth Outreach Minister on September 1, 2023. In order to provide ministry coverage during Pastor Enoch's sabbatical, we recruited Minister Vernon Cheung to be the Interim Minister for English Ministry (Chinatown Campus). He started joining the pastoral staff also on September 1, 2023. Pastor Enoch completed his one-year sabbatical and rejoined the staff on September 1, 2024. Pastor Barry completed his 6-month sabbatical and rejoined the staff on 10/1/2024.

On the Chinese Staff, Minister James Su stepped down from his position of the Newon Mandarin Minister on February 2, 2023. Brother Benny Chiu joined us as the Chinese Senior and Outreach Minister on September 17, 2023. After a year of satisfactory service, the elders and deacons have approved to commission him during the Annual Membership Meeting on October 27, 2024.



BCEC Staff:

- Back: Ryan So, Peter Wong, Vernon Cheung
- Middle: Benny Chiu, Dennis Chin, Venus Yim, Connie Ho, Kwok Wah Wong, Pastor Steve Liu, Lorraine Ho, Helena Fong
- Front: Louis Leung, Pastor Andy Su, Pastor Kenneth Kwong, Pastor Daniel Chan, Pastor Ken Liu, Chris Horte

In August 2024, the elders and deacons approved a restructuring plan for the Chinatown youth ministry. As such, Pastor Steve Liu transitioned to be the Lead Chinatown Youth Minister and Minister Louis Leung became the Associate Chinatown Youth Minister on September 1, 2024. Pastor Ken Liu will take a 6-month sabbatical starting on March 1, 2025.

We are thankful for the generous donations of our members. The General Fund recorded a small surplus. Unfortunately, we did not reach our goal for General Fund income, but because we underspent in some categories, there is no actual deficit. The Missions Fund and Charity Fund have met their income target. However, both of them show deficits in the financial report because the budgeted expenses were increased by the decision to spend down their accumulated surpluses from the past. In the coming year, the deacons foresee a significant increase in the General Fund budget due to inflation and major capital and repair expenses. Please refer to a separate financial report and budget proposal for details.

The church theme for the coming year is “Discipling Every Generation to Discover and Grow in Jesus.” We wish to encourage and help everyone in our church to become not just a believer but a disciple of Jesus. Being disciples, we shall continue to grow in Christ and share the gospel to others.



Left: Chinatown Mid-Autumn Festival; Right: Joint Chinese Christmas Eve service at Newton Campus

Report from the Board of Deacons

Rob Huie

Greetings from the Board of Deacons!

We have been quite busy this year and have overseen and done much of the work necessary to ensure the proper operations of BCEC. Here are some of the highlights the Board of Deacons has accomplished this year: We are continually monitoring our finances to maximize income and minimize risk. We oversaw a Facilities Audit of our BCEC properties, ensuring we are meeting future building codes, as well as focusing on building a reserve to maintain and repair our buildings and equipment over the next 10 years. We continue to oversee the renovation of the Newton Campus, and are working to obtain permits to use the entire facility as soon as possible. We have constructed and approved the General Fund, Missions Fund, Charity Fund, and Expansion Fund for FY 2024-2025, and will be managing the Town Hall and Annual Meeting.

A tremendous amount of work was put into our personnel needs and vacancies this year. As Pastor Daniel Chan prepares to retire in the coming month, much time was put into finishing the job description and the search for a new senior pastor for BCEC. God has been faithful to us by providing great teams in the search process. Thankfully, in His infinite wisdom, we can present a candidate to the congregation. We are also actively working on hiring the Mandarin minister for the Newton Campus. In addition, the board has retained Interim English Minister, Vernon Cheung and has hired the Associate Chinatown Youth Minister, Louis Leung. Furthermore, we will also be commissioning minister Benny Chiu after a year of work with BCEC as the Director of Seniors and Outreach Ministries. Pastor Steve Liu will be transitioning to the role of Lead Chinatown Youth Minister.

The Change and Restructuring Committee is continuing to review current structures and operations, gather input from various stakeholders, and has proposed changes. The goal continues to be that BCEC leadership operates as efficiently as possible and is agile enough to navigate the needs of our changing demographics, culture, and world. The committee looks forward to working with the new senior pastor and leadership teams to implement these changes. In addition, the Chinatown Expansion Task Force is working diligently, along with both the Board of Deacons and the Board of Elders to plan and design for future ministry needs of BCEC. We

have held multiple listening sessions to ascertain the thoughts and needs of the congregation, in addition to implementing a survey to the entire church as to our expansion plans. The data has been relayed to the Board of Elders, as they will study the results and use it to help determine our direction. As one of our priorities, the BOD continues to equip, train, and promote new and diverse members into BCEC leadership. We look forward to working with the new generations of leaders to envision necessary ways to grow the Kingdom of God with the resources he has entrusted us with. Finally, we are continuing to try to open up more communication and unity between our leadership and our church members through meetings, town halls, events, and a stronger Internet presence. For example, we spearheaded a festive and fun Boba Tea Worship night, which was attended by many Cantonese, Mandarin and English members at our Newton Campus last April. We look forward to holding more of these events to unite our church family!

We would like to thank our members so much for their generous giving and faithful prayer to BCEC. Please continue praying for us as a board and individually, as we strive to work together in unity with BCEC leadership for the glory of His kingdom!

In His Love and Blessing,

Rob Huie
Chairman, Board of Deacons

Board of Deacons at Retreat



Chinese-Speaking Ministries Overview

Pastor Kenneth Kwong

Over the past year, the Chinese Ministry adopted the church-wide theme of “Running the Race” with the hope of promoting the “passing down” of servanthood from one generation of believers to the next, thereby continuing the legacy of our church. We launched a new edition of the autobiography of our founding pastor, Reverend James Tan. This new edition is not only available in print, but it can be viewed online, as well as in a downloadable EPUB format, so that more people can understand the spirit and history of our church's founding.

The Chinese ministry has both Chinese and Cantonese congregations in both locations, but each congregation has built up its own identity, and the development of the facilities reflects the mission of the congregation and the needs of the community in which it is situated. With this in mind, the renovation of the Newton Campus is largely complete, opening up more possibilities for ministry development. I hope that the Chinatown Expansion will also respond to the needs of the Chinatown Campus and the unique characteristics of the surrounding community.

The pandemic showed us the fragility of life, and the elderly among us were the first to suffer, with their health and church involvement jeopardized. In response, the Cantonese congregations in both Chinatown and Newton coincidentally strengthened their elderly care and senior home visitation ministries. We thank God for the earnest participation of many brothers and sisters, and hope that God will continue to lead the development of these areas, including Stephen's Ministry, Evangelism Explosion, and community care. We also pray for God's wisdom to innovate other ministries that are responsive to the new post-pandemic lifestyle.

The Mandarin ministries at the Chinatown and Newton Campuses are gradually developing different unique characteristics, serving believers from different backgrounds, but both with a rich family-like atmosphere and a strong family in Christ bond and fellowship among believers. We thank God for the steady and faithful service of Pastor Andy Su, and hope that the Newton Mandarin congregation will also hire a long-term pastor as soon as possible, so that the ministry can develop more solidly and steadily. We would like to thank Minister Peter Wong for his generosity in time and serving, as well as the lay ministry leaders for their hard work.

We are thankful that God has started a new Chinese Youth Fellowship at the Chinatown Campus, which has enabled our Chinese youth ministry to enter a new milestone. In the past, the Chinese youth ministry had come to a standstill with the decline of Cantonese-speaking immigrant youths. However, God has raised up Minister Louis Leung's commitment to youth work, and he continued to pray and search for help for this area of need. With the increasing number of Mandarin-speaking immigrant youths, and with the concerted efforts of a group of mentors, the Mandarin youth ministry grew from a small group into a fellowship, opening up a new opportunity for the Chinese ministry.

On the whole, the church has gradually regained its vigor after the pandemic, and people have begun to shake off the shadows of the pandemic. However, the pace of change has not slowed down, and emerging topics like artificial intelligence has society looking forward to a new era with mixed feelings. We need to dream for the future, and at the same time, we need to promote intergenerational fellowship and the inheritance of the Christian faith.



Visiting the elderly



Top Left: Chinese New Year Celebration; Top Right: Chinese Youth Fellowship activities
Bottom: Stephen Fellowship with graduating students and guests

English-Speaking Ministries Overview

Pastor Ken Liu and Pastor Steve Liu

This past year has been marked by significant adjustments, as many staff members have taken on new roles and added responsibilities following Pastor Calvin's departure and Pastor Enoch's yearlong sabbatical. Thankfully, Louis and Vernon stepped in as interim ministers during this transitional period, offering much needed support.

As we entered this year, it was tempting to think our job was just to "hold down the fort." However, these leadership gaps were opportunities to grow, adapt, and develop as leaders. Although there were challenges along the way, God has been faithful in guiding us through. Thank you for your prayers, feedback, and encouragement along the way.

While many of our ministries have needed to adjust and adapt, it was also encouraging to see new ministries emerge. Both English congregations launched an Alpha Course, a multi-week program designed to provide a space for people to discuss life's big questions. It allows everyone to explore faith, ask questions, and share their personal stories. It was encouraging to see us active in sharing life and faith with friends, coworkers, and those in our community.

Similarly, we celebrated the baptisms of thirty-two brothers and sisters from our English congregations! We had to get creative to fit everyone into our chapel for Easter, but we made it work! Celebrating with those eager to publicly profess their faith was such a joy!

Not only have we been active and sharing our faith and seeing people get baptized, but we've also seen people respond to the call to reach people cross-culturally. Last fall, during our Missions emphasis week, we had the privilege of hearing from Joyce and Henri Samitou, founders of New Sight Ministries in the Republic of Congo. They delivered an inspiring and challenging message titled "Who, Me? Yes, You!" based on Gideon's story in the book of Judges. This past July, we commissioned and sent members from both English congregations on a short-term missions trip to minister and serve with New Sight Ministries. It's amazing to see members respond to God's call to serve and participate in what God is doing around the world.

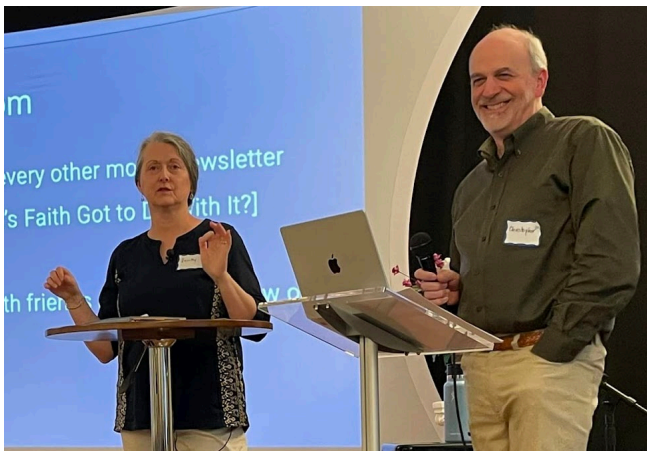
In January, we held the second-ever BCEC Women's Retreat at Brookwoods Conference Center. Katie Luc spoke on the book of Ruth. The women who attended were blessed by the messages and fellowship across ages and congregations.

This past March, we hosted Dorothy and Chris Greco for a Spring Seminar on the theme, "Becoming Whole and Holy in the Second Half of Life." They delved into the challenges of midlife and beyond and how to reframe our expectations and hopes through the gospel. It was a blessing to see members from both congregations unite to connect and engage in meaningful discussions on timely topics.

Good Friday night once again brought Newton and Chinatown together for something a little different. Folks from both congregations ranging from youth to older adults performed a dramatic reading of the Gospel of Matthew to help us remember the Lord's sacrifice to save us.

These are just a few highlights of the many stories of God's work among our members and across our English congregations. Of course, there were countless "unseen" and behind-the-scenes kinds of service. We are truly thankful for each of you and your service to BCEC and the kingdom of God.

As we move into the fall, my hope and prayer is that we continue to trust in God's guidance during this season of transition. God has never stopped being faithful to us over the years, and there's every reason to trust that He will remain so.



Left: Becoming Whole and Holy with Dorothy and Chris Greco; Right: Commissioning of the Republic of Congo team

Chinatown Cantonese Congregation

Pastor Kenneth Kwong

I am pleased to introduce some new developments in the Chinatown Cantonese congregation. This year we have started to hold regular potlucks after Sunday worship service to promote fellowship and encourage the congregation to attend in-person Sunday worship service.

We are grateful to our new co-worker, Minister Benny Chiu, for joining the ministry team and leading the local evangelism department to promote Cantonese-language evangelism in the Chinatown community. We hosted a “Love is Plan B” movie screening, invited The Heralders from Los Angeles to co-organize the “Dawn of Hope” evangelistic meeting, co-organized a local short-term evangelistic meeting with the Boston Local Mission, and completed the Mid-Autumn Festival booth evangelistic event.

Minister Venus Yim and Minister Benny Chiu also explored the possibilities of holding faith formation classes on Sunday afternoons, starting with the Faith Fundamentals class, which will be held regularly to train first-time believers. This will be followed by Minister Yim’s Life Growth course, which consists of four phases and approaches the life edification for believers from the perspective of faith and counseling. She will also roll out the Life Education course within the Cancer Support Group Ministry in response to the needs of patients and the elderly.

The Chinatown Cantonese congregation hopes to establish a more systematic discipleship structure in the coming year. May the Lord guide this effort.



Top: Chinatown Cantonese service lunch; Bottom: The Heralders visit BCEC

Chinatown English Congregation

Pastor Steve Liu

Our congregation experienced God's leading through some changes this year. Despite Pastor Enoch's sabbatical and Pastor Calvin's departure, God's Word nourished and challenged us with sermons on the Imago Dei, the Soundtrack of Christmas, Running the Race, the Mystery of the Cross, Encounters with the Risen Christ, and the Sermon on the Mount.

Although we missed some beloved pastors, God provided through some staff additions and changes. Pastor Steve Liu left his Project Destiny Ministries role, and led the Chinatown English pastoral team and the Chinatown English Youth Ministry. Ryan So shepherded the Young Adult and College Ministries, while also guiding the Adult Small Group system. Lorraine Ho led the Children's Ministry. Louis Leung joined as interim Project Destiny Ministries Director. Vernon Cheung, back in Boston after many years, accepted an interim role leading worship service, Family Fellowship, and teaching.

In this season, God prompted us to let go of some previous ways of ministry for new ones. For example, the youth held their inaugural February Youth Retreat after ending the WTC the year before, allowing the youth from PDAS and Friday Night Live to get to know each other better and learn about Biblical Friendship. College Ministry also underwent significant changes, shifting its emphasis to large group fellowship nights. There were more college students participating in ministry and getting baptized. Community Sports saw various segments of the church come together, playing dodgeball throughout the spring. Young adults kept up a steady pace of special events to build community.

In May, we held a Worship Service Ministry teams' appreciation lunch to celebrate those who were leaving and those who continued to serve. We are grateful for their dedication and commitment to our congregation. Looking ahead, we pray that God would provide more help in almost all Sunday ministry teams, and we trust that He will provide.



Top: Teacher Josh's and Teacher Mo's Chinatown English Youth Sunday School Class; Bottom: Chinatown English Young Adult Retreat

Chinatown Mandarin Congregation

Pastor Andy Su

“Now the Berean Jews were of more noble character than those in Thessalonica, for they received the message with great eagerness and examined the Scriptures every day to see if what Paul said was true.” -Acts 17:11 (NIV).

Our Chinatown Mandarin ministries have experienced the third wave of the Eastern Lightning infiltration of heresy, testing whether we can clearly distinguish between heresy and the truth of God's Word. We thank the Lord that in our fellowships, Sunday School classes, and Bible study discussions, we can feel the fire of God's Word in our hearts. This brings us awareness for the need to repent, as well as to humbly trust in God in the midst of suffering. In addition, when our worship service tried sign language dancing, praise songs were vividly expressed, praising God in the field and praising God at the Mid-Autumn Festival booth in Chinatown Boston. Moreover, it was a time of reflection and introspection after the pandemic. We cherished the precious time for the members of Christ to exhort each other. Lastly, we truly give thanks for being able to see each other in person again, and carry each other through the difficult times in the last several years.

Worshipping at Autumn Moon Festival



Newton Cantonese Congregation

Pastor Barry Lam

When I think about the ministry of the Newton Cantonese congregation in the past year, I am reminded of Paul's letter to the church in Philippi, which expresses his feelings towards the brothers and sisters. He said, *"Every time I think of you, I give thanks to my God. Whenever I pray, I make my requests for all of you with joy, for you have been my partners in spreading the Good News about Christ from the time you first heard it until now. And I am certain that God, who began the good work within you, will continue his work until it is finally finished on the day when Christ Jesus returns."* (Philippians 1:3-6 - NLT) Even in prison, Paul remained grateful and joyful. The reason was not because he was proud and righteous for his own sacrifice, but because he was filled with joy from the bottom of his heart when he saw the brothers and sisters in the church in Philippi serving God with all their heart and preaching the gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ. Thank God, when I reflect on the ministry of the Newton Cantonese congregation, and when I think of this group of comrades in the kingdom of God who are all united in the prosperity of the gospel, I give praise and glory to God.

Last year, our evangelistic ministry included evangelistic ministry within the church and outreach ministry outside the church. The evangelistic ministries within the church include the following:

1. Sanfu personal evangelism,
 2. Enlightenment course,
 3. Gospel Exploration classes every Sunday,
 4. Sunday New Friends Reception,
 5. and large-scale events such as holiday dinners and the movie gospel meeting
- The outreach ministry outside the church consists of visits to the four elderly houses.

Here are the encouraging statistics:

1. Sanfu Team: From the beginning of last year to the present, the actual number of times Sanfu team has played/told the complete gospel: 46; Number of people who have made decisions: 25; Confirmation of confidence building: 10; A total of more than 40 people have been trained to become Sanfu team members
2. Enlightenment course: It will be held on Friday evening for the first time. We are grateful that God has prepared 15 service and leadership colleagues for us, and 22 students have participated. Three of them decided to accept Jesus as their Lord and Savior during the course and were baptized in September.
3. The "Love Plan B" movie gospel meeting and the New Year's celebration each had more than 150 attendees, including many of their relatives and friends who have not accepted Christ as their personal Savior.
4. Gospel Exploration class every Sunday: God has prepared 8 leaders for us
5. Visits to elderly homes and contact with more than 50 elderly people
6. New friends who registered for Sunday worship service: 44 people

In addition to evangelistic ministry, fellowship group life is also an important support system for the church and its believers. I still remember that the church survey report we did many years ago showed that only 50% of the people participated in fellowships or small groups. To deepen and expand the pastoral care of the fellowship groups and establish a network of peer care connections, Daniel Fellowship continues to maintain the "Tai Wai" fellowship activities to allow brothers and sisters to get to know each other. Through these intentional community-building activities, it strengthens the care of the group, as they grow together in faith. This year, except for the two couples and family groups, the other groups were changed to regional groups with the purpose of narrowing the distance between brothers and sisters. There are currently about 90 people participating in the Daniel Fellowship Group, and together with the number of people participating in other fellowships, the number has increased to 80%. In the days to come, we hope to continue training more group leaders to lead inspiration groups and fellowship groups. Thank God, in our third group leader training this year, seven trainees completed the sixth-month course and graduated. May the Lord use them mightily, and let their lives influence more lives.

Furthermore, God also showed us that for the ministry to develop, it is necessary to establish a team responsible for planning and leadership. Thank God, before I went on sabbatical, I organized the Newton Cantonese Ministry Team. The team includes the

understanding chairperson, missionary department representative, outreach department representative, worship department representative, audiovisual department representative, religious education representative, children and adult ministry representatives, various fellowship chairs, general affairs, and clerks. The ultimate goal is to transform the Newton Cantonese congregation, so that we will be more organized, strengthen communication between departments, and to be united in planning future ministry opportunities.

Please continue to pray for us. On the one hand, we are grateful to God that the renovation of Newton Hall has allowed us to have a "hardware" update, but we also need the update and construction of the "software," which is the spiritual life of the brothers and sisters. Please pray for us, as Paul prayed for the church at Philippi, *"And it is my prayer that your love may abound more and more, with knowledge and all discernment, so that you may approve what is excellent, and so be pure and blameless for the day of Christ, filled with the fruit of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ, to the glory and praise of God."* (Philippians 1:9-11 - ESV) If someone asked me to describe the Newton Cantonese congregation, I would say without any doubt, the Newton Cantonese congregation is comprised of brothers and sisters in Christ who are enthusiastic about preaching the gospel about God's Kingdom, building disciples, and loving God and people.



Left: Elderly house visitation; Right: Fellowship lunch gathering

Newton English Congregation

Pastor Ken Liu

On our 20th anniversary, there was much to reflect upon and celebrate. It was fitting that the first service held in the renovated sanctuary was the 20th-anniversary service that brought all of us together to praise God in all three languages. It was a wonderful celebration and remembrance of God's faithfulness. Our anniversary theme was "Building Blessings, Growing Generations." Earlier this year, we reflected on this theme and considered what it meant to be "called together to help every generation find and follow Jesus."

One of the areas that make BCEC special is that we are multigenerational. Although there is a tendency for most churches to focus their discipleship efforts on folks in their first half of life, it's also important for us not to forget that we are here to help every generation no matter what life stage and season in life. During our Family Community Group, we explored the theme of midlife during our gatherings. It culminated in an event for both English congregations, featuring Dorothy and Chris Greco, who spoke on "Becoming Whole and Holy in the Second Half of Life."

To reach every generation, it can't be accomplished on our own as an English congregation. We are also multi-congregational, which means we need each other to reach and grow every generation. That is why we are "called together" to accomplish this.

Our children and youth ministries are a shared effort between our congregations, partnering with families to guide younger generations toward Jesus. Whether you're directly involved or not, please pray for our children and youth and consider serving in these ministries. There are many ways to engage. As someone who has served in various roles over the years, it's a joy to watch them grow spiritually. Our Director of Student Ministry, Chris Horte, is doing a fantastic job connecting with students, but let's all work together to help our young people love Jesus, the local church, and its mission.

There are other examples of what it means to be "called together." One of the exciting, yet unpredictable aspects of Alpha is not knowing who would show up. Some came through personal invitations. But most who stayed for the duration were invited through our

other congregations. At certain points, our small groups were bilingual. I'm incredibly impressed with our team, who were able to dust off their Cantonese and Mandarin skills to minister and speak the heart language of our guests. Despite the language and cultural differences, it did not interfere with sharing freely and asking life's deepest questions.

The subsequent Cantonese Alpha also had some unexpected twists. There were primarily English-speaking folks who joined, and watched the Alpha videos in Chinese (with English subtitles)! A small group in English was created as a result. Currently, we are working towards doing Alpha together. In anticipation of Alpha this fall, we hear stories of parents eager to participate alongside their young adult children and vice versa. Please keep us in your prayers, as we work out what it means to be "called together" in the work of evangelism.

On the topic of generations, it's been encouraging to see more college-aged and young adults getting involved in our community recently. Over the summer, a college group was formed to study scripture and enjoy fellowship together. We hope this continues in some form this fall. When I speak with colleagues from other congregations in Newton, they have also noticed this trend in their congregations. Please join us in praying that we can reach more college-aged and young adults in the area regardless of their background.

Despite the transitions within our Newton staff, it has been a pleasure serving with Interim Mandarin Minister Peter Wong, Deacon James Lam, and Minister Chris Horte. Even with Pastor Barry on sabbatical and the ongoing search for a new Mandarin Minister, I'm excited for our future together. While our congregations will continue to thrive in their unique contexts, we recognize there are things we can do better together than on our own. May we look to the one who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine! (Ephesians 3:20-21).



Newton Alpha Course

Newton Mandarin Congregation

Interim Chinese Minister Peter Wong

The Lord once said to Paul, "*My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness.*" (2 Corinthians 12:9 - ESV) This past year has been a challenging time for the Newton Mandarin congregation. It was not easy to experience a change in pastoral staff, but praise to our Lord, God's grace is truly sufficient for us! He is the only one who could lead us through storms and to soar like eagles!

We give thanks to our pastor staff for their many prayers and support, as our Mandarin ministries unfolded this past year. The Holy Spirit also moved many brothers and sisters to share the burden of ministering to our congregation. With God's grace, we observe a slight year-over-year (up to July 14th) increase in worship service attendance, up to 73 people on average. Other ministries are continuing smoothly as well, under the unity and support of brothers and sisters:

- Sunday Lunch Ministry: Brothers and sisters prepare lunch together. Every week is a family gathering to share God's grace and blessings.
- Wednesday Night Online Prayer Meeting: Over 10 brothers and sisters regularly pray for the church and one another, witnessing the Lord's work among us.
- Thursday Morning Women's Bible Study: God is caring for new attendees through the communion and testimonies among the sisters. Some of them got baptized this year.
- Friday Bible Study: Praise the Lord for moving brothers to lead these gatherings. God reveals His words to us and moves us closer in fellowship and prayers through these bible studies.
- Friday Children's Fellowship: Lord moves brothers and sisters to lead children's activities, so our kids may learn the bible's truths at a young age. We are truly excited and grateful!

- Tuesday Night Youth Agape2 Bible Study: Thank God for leading a group of young brothers and sisters and college students to participate in Bible study small groups in the past two years. We give thanks for their seeking hearts!
- Sunday School: God continues to use this ministry. We give thanks to the many brothers and sisters for taking on the burden of teaching together. We have completed the study of Genesis this year, and are beginning the study of Acts. Thank God for building our lives through His Word!!
- Sunday Worship Team: We give thanks for raising over 20 brothers and sisters to serve together this year. We also thank sisters from the Cantonese congregation for serving as our pianists!
- Mandarin Cell Groups: Thank the Lord for keeping many groups going and even reviving some that had gone dormant. It is wonderful to witness the growing fellowship, love, and harmony among brothers and sisters.
- Alpha Course: Our Lord also moved some of us to lead and reach out to non-believers, with several coming to Christ this year. Praise the Lord!
- New Believer Discipleship Training: The Lord has raised some of us to disciple new believers through discipleship training courses. Praise the Lord!
- Newcomer Reception and Visitation: Several of us are faithfully connecting with newcomers. We all witness our Lord's abundance through their continuous, loving care.
- Annual Thanksgiving Dinner and Lunar New Year Gathering: Brothers and sisters gather with newcomers in joyful celebrations. We very much experienced the blessing, joy, and grace of our Father's presence.

Praise the Lord for letting our Newton Mandarin congregation to be His witness! May God continue to hold up brothers and sisters, as they offer their spiritual gifts in faithful service to our Lord. May this congregation grow ever closer to God's own heart for His own glory and to bless those around us! Amen!



Top: Young Adult group gathering; Bottom: 10-year Congregational Celebration group photo

Report from the Missions Committee

Michael Ho and Lorraine Ho

Navigating post COVID has taken time in many different aspects of our lives. The missions realm is the same. The Missions Committee also needed to be adaptive to the needs. From our Missions Committee retreats this year, we renewed our focus and set the future direction of the missions ministry. We hope that BCEC will dedicate itself to fulfilling the Great Commission by making disciples of all nations. With God's help, we want to encourage every BCEC worshiper to find their role in this important calling.

BCEC's Missions Fund is currently supporting 36 global partners, 22 missions organizations, as well as seminarians. We prioritized our support for those working amongst unreached people groups, as well as our BCEC members who are doing frontline work. Some of our global partners are adjusting to new assignments, new culture, environments, and new ways of ministering after being pushed out of their countries after years of service.

Every November, we host our annual Missions Conference to encourage our congregations to learn various aspects of His Great Commission. Last year we had invited Drs. Joyce and Henri Samoutou from Congo as our English keynote speakers. The Cantonese speaker was Rev. Kai Ming Ho, and the Mandarin speaker was Rev. Jian Chuan Shi.

Short-term missions is an important tool for us to see God in action around the world. It allows participants to experience God's work in their lives and understand God's heart for the world. Our short-term missions program has fully been reactivated after a period of lull after COVID. The interest to serve and the diversity of participants have increased from before. We sent out short-term missions teams to Cambodia to run Christmas children outreaches and do college student outreach. We organized a pilot team to send to the Republic of Congo to help set up a new eye hospital. We partnered with River of Life Christian Church in Boston to send a team to Kyrgyzstan in Central Asia to run an English youth camp. Individuals went to Japan, Cyprus, Nepal, Thailand, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, and Mexico to do outreach, run camps, and conduct trainings for the local people.

We pray that BCEC continues to be a missional church, with global perspectives on what God is doing in this world, and to share the good news of Jesus in word and deed.



Various Fellowship gatherings

Report from the Social Responsibility Committee

Pauline Huie

As we reflect on another year of Social Responsibility at BCEC, we thank God for the ways our church has embodied the love of Christ both in our community and globally. We praise God for the generosity of our congregation towards contributing to our Charity Fund as we stewarded \$102K (YTD). These funds supported Social Responsibility churchwide activities and provided financial support to our ministry partners to address physical needs and share Christ's love.

This year's Social Responsibility ministry highlights:

We continued our "Stories of Hope" conference series, which featured speakers from Provision Ministry, Silver Lining, and Route One. They shared powerful stories of God's faithfulness and healing brokenness in our society and world.

Our church did the following:

- partnered with Provision Ministry to build over 600 care backpacks filled with essentials for those experiencing homelessness and school children in Chelsea.
- served bimonthly meals at Boston Rescue Mission, a local Christian homeless shelter and rehabilitation center.
- participated in World Vision's Global 6K, collecting almost \$20K to provide clean water to global communities.
- responded to aid relief efforts in Sudan, Africa and collected \$8K.
- served with a Chinatown neighborhood clean-up through Love Your Block Boston.
- partnered with the Boston Missionary Baptist Church and held a winter clothing drive to aid Haitian migrants and refugees.
- started to hold quarterly SR Ministry prayer meetings.
- hosted a Red Cross blood drive at Newton Campus.

Thanks to all who participated in these events!

This upcoming year's priorities include partnering with more church leaders and BCEC members to identify new and practical opportunities to serve and be a blessing to those in need. We invite you to reach out to us at srministry@bcec.net, as we strive to serve and love others with compassion and hope in the name of our Lord Jesus.



Top: Brothers and sisters from Boston Chinese Evangelical Church joined with other believers to serve food to homeless and needy individuals at Boston Rescue Mission; Bottom: Boston Chinese Evangelical Church participated in the Global 6K for Clean Water at Arsenal Yards

Special thank you to the volunteers who helped with this year's Annual Report.

If you are interested in helping out with next year's Annual Report, please reach out to the BOD secretary at bod.secretary@bcec.net.

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